

## BUSINESS MEN ENTER COAL YARDS TO LEARN CAUSE OF HIGH PRICE

Without Waiting for Formal Meeting, Committee Named Saturday Begins Active Operations.

Will Interview Local Railroad Men Regarding Situation in Addition to Visiting Dealers.

Without awaiting the formal meeting of the committee appointed Saturday by the District Commissioners to investigate the discrimination which, it is alleged, is practiced against this city in the distribution of coal from the mines, the work was aggressively taken up this morning and an important report will be ready for submission when the committee meets late this afternoon. Chairman Thomas W. Smith took the initiative by requesting Barry Bulkeley to act as secretary of the committee. Mr. Bulkeley has been actively identified for several weeks with the investigation of the coal situation. He is considered one of the best-informed persons in the city with reference to the situation.

Immediately following this appointment arrangements were made for an inspection of all of the coal yards and dumps in the city and the interviewing of the local railroad officials with a view to ascertaining what the condition actually is. An accurate report will be submitted this evening at the meeting in the Board of Trade rooms as to the approximate receipts of the day of all kinds of coal and the amount of the visible supply. All facts bearing upon the situation which it is possible to ascertain in the limited time at the disposal of the members will be submitted for the consideration of the committee as a whole.

All of the members of the committee were informed this morning by Secretary Bulkeley of the work outlined, and all signified their intention of taking part in the investigation, with the exception of ex-Commissioner George Tiesdell, who is in Chicago. Just when he will return is not known.

Charles F. Weller, secretary of the Associated Charities, and one of the most active members of the Citizens' Relief Association, has arranged to present to the committee this afternoon the needs of the poor and to ask that action be taken to care for them in case of emergency. The local dealers have been supplying limited quantities of coal to the association and to the relief committee at an advanced price, but have announced that they cannot guarantee to continue to do so.

## ENGLISH TORPEDO BOAT DESTROYER IN COLLISION

Narrowly Escapes Foundering in Channel—Dense Fog Prevailing at Time of Accident.

BOULOGNE, Dec. 1.—The torpedo boat destroyer De Horrier, bound from Boulogne to Cherbourg, was in collision with an unknown vessel in the Channel last night. A dense fog prevailed at the time.

The De Horrier sustained extensive damages, and narrowly escaped foundering on account of rapid rush of water.

## LA CHAMPAGNE AND RYNDAM OVERDUE AND NOT SIGHTED

NEW YORK, Dec. 1.—Two of the big trans-Atlantic steamships which should have reached here on Saturday have not yet been sighted. The Holland-American steamship Ryndam is one of those overdue and the French liner La Champagne is the other.

The Ryndam left Rotterdam on November 29, and the last news from her was when she passed the Isle of Wight on November 21. There has been no report from La Champagne since she left Havre on November 26.

The Ryndam is reckoned one of the best of the Holland-American vessels, her master, Captain Van der Zee, has heretofore brought her on schedule time. La Champagne is an old-fashioned single-screw vessel, a type rapidly being replaced by the modern twin screw ships. She is a slow vessel and the owners feel no uneasiness about her.

In view of the Campania's lateness, the owners of the Ryndam say that they are sure their vessel will come in soon now. Neither of the vessels is equipped with wireless telegraph apparatus.

## THE WEATHER.

Forecast for the District of Columbia and Maryland—Fair tonight. Tuesday partly cloudy, light to fresh north to east winds.

The month just closed was exceptionally warm, especially east of the Mississippi, where the temperature averaged 6 degrees to 10 degrees above the November normal. In some parts of the country, as at Washington, it was the warmest November in the last thirty years. The month was also dry, especially in the Northern and Northeastern districts.

For the next thirty-six hours there is no likelihood of lower temperature. This announcement was made this morning by the official forecaster of the Weather Bureau. The dispatch announcing the fall of snow as near as Cumberland led to the belief that flakes might soon be flying here, but at the Weather Bureau it was said that the snow in Cumberland was a part of the storm which prevailed here as rain. This morning the weather is clear in all that section east of the Mississippi River, and the temperature is moderating.

In the city, in addition to continued clear weather the indications are that the mercury will continue to climb.

## MINISTER CONCHA OF COLOMBIA RECALLED BY HIS GOVERNMENT

Given Leave of Absence From His Post to Place Himself Under Care of Physician in New York.

The State Department was informed this afternoon, by Secretary Herran, of the Colombian legation, that Senor Concha, the representative of Colombia, has received leave of absence from his post in this city to go under the care of a doctor in New York. It is understood, in department circles, that this is equivalent to Senor Concha's recall.

The State Department has not yet received any official advice respecting the reported recall of Minister Concha, Colombia's representative in this coun-

try, although it is generally believed that he has been summoned home by his government, on account of dissatisfaction with his diplomacy in the matter of the Panama Canal negotiations.

The understanding is that Senor Herran, present secretary of the legation, will have charge of Colombia's affairs here until the appointment of a new minister, which will probably be himself, and that he will at once assume the duties of carrying on the Panama Canal negotiations.

## GLENS FALLS DEALER'S COAL SUPPLY SHUT OFF

Declares Operators Discriminated Against Him.

SARATOGA, N. Y., Dec. 1.—The Citizens' Alliance, an association of business men and manufacturers of Glens Falls, are probing the matter of the cost of coal in that place.

They have learned that Delaware and Hudson Coal, for which \$8 per ton is charged there, is being sold at Plattsburgh, 112 miles haul, for \$6.50; in Fort Ann for \$6.50; in Gansevoort for \$6.25; in Saratoga Springs and Ballston Spa, rail communication only, for \$6.50.

The grievance is laid at the door of the Delaware and Hudson Canal Company, which, as alleged, has taken a hand in controlling prices.

J. H. O'Connor, a Glens Falls dealer, who has 2,000 tons of Lehigh and Lackawanna coal on hand, which he is selling at \$7.50 per ton, allows to be published today a communication he received from G. W. Church, agent of the Delaware and Hudson Company, in which O'Connor is charged with selling coal at a lower figure than his competitors and saying that "you are not strong enough to stand a run in prices or to undertake to sell coal at less than any other dealer can do."

It is stated that O'Connor "gave bonds to pay for his coal, but because he did not see fit to keep the price up his supply was cut off and he has received no coal of the Delaware and Hudson Company since."

## DEATH OF MAN WHO AIDED IN FALL OF CHARLESTON.

Thomas Semmes Furnished Plans Which Helped Federal Forces to Take City—Had Exciting Career.

Thomas J. Semmes, a colored man who played an important, if humble, part in the great game of war in the 60's, died at his residence, 735 Eleventh Street northwest, this morning of cancer of the stomach. He had lived to the ripe old age of seventy-nine years, and though feeble by his years, recalled well the stirring scenes which preceded the fall of Charleston, in which he figured.

## Furnished Plans of Charleston.

Semmes was born in a small village near Atlanta, Ga. He was a third-Indian and was more intelligent than the average member of the race. When hostilities began between the North and South he drafted several maps and plans of the city of Charleston, S. C., with which he was familiar, and tramping northward placed them in the hands of the Federal commanders. His drawings proved of incalculable value to the Northern forces and led, it was stated, to the fall of the devoted city.

## ST. LOUIS ARRIVES AT PIER ONE DAY OVERDUE

Delayed by Gale and Defective Boiler.

NEW YORK, Dec. 1.—The American Line steamer St. Louis arrived in port early this morning from Southampton and Cherbourg after a very stormy passage.

The St. Louis is usually due on Sunday morning. Owing to the fact that her boilers have not been up to their usual steaming capacity, added to the violent gales encountered, her average speed was reduced to 14.22 knots per hour.

The St. Louis left the channel with moderate breezes which later increased to a gale with violent squalls and a very high dangerous sea. The gales continued in violence from the north, northwest and southwest, until Friday, when they fell to a light breeze from the south-southeast, with hazy weather.

From Thursday noon to Friday noon, the ship made 409 knots. After noon Friday, the ship had fog for 183 miles, which further delayed her. The daily runs, except that ending Friday noon, were all under 400 knots, that of Saturday being only 394 knots.

Among the passengers were J. Allison Bowen, United States deputy consul general, Paris; the Comtesse D'Illor and Gen. Ben L. Viljoen, late of the South African republicain burgher forces. General Viljoen has come for a three-months' lecture tour in this country and to make arrangements for the publication here of his new book, "My Reminiscences of the Anglo-Boer War," of which he brought advance proof sheets.

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## BILLPOSTERS MAY FORM A NATIONAL UNION

Convention of Delegates From Fifteen Large Cities in Session at Saratoga.

CHICAGO, Dec. 1.—Delegates from local unions in fifteen of the more important cities of the country are here to meet in convention today at the Saratoga Hotel to organize a national body of billposters. The convention will be in session until Wednesday and the delegates are to be the guests of the local Billposters and Billers' Union.

The first session was held this morning at 10 o'clock. This evening a banquet at Uhlrich's Hall will be given to the visitors, at which 175 covers are to be laid. The affair will be preceded by an informal reception and vaudeville entertainment.

Tomorrow it is believed the organization will be far enough advanced to take up the election of officers.

## MANY CALL ON THE PRESIDENT

Senator Warren of Wyoming Tells Chief Executive That Bears Are Plentiful and Promises Rare Sport.

## OFF DAY FOR POLITICS

Those Who Visit White House Do So to Pay Their Respects, as Is Customary at Opening of Congress.

As is customary at the opening of every Congress, many of the members of the House and Senate called on the President.

Senator Warren of Wyoming and Representative-at-Large F. W. Mondell were the first to arrive at the White House. The Senator referred to the President's trip to Mississippi and declared Wyoming afforded much better sport.

"The President is looking forward to his Pacific Coast tour of next spring," said the Senator, "and will then take the 100-mile trip on horseback from one side of the State to the other, which I proposed to him last spring."

The Outlook in Kansas. Representative Curtis of Kansas also paid his respects to the President.

"The Senatorial outlook in my State is very encouraging," he said, "and I expect to have the largest support of any of the candidates for Senator Harris' seat in the upper house. I have the lead now and am confident of keeping it."

Senator Millard of Nebraska, who was an early visitor, does not regard the alleged encroachments of Western cattle-men upon Government lands as a matter of much consequence.

This is a subject upon which the President has taken a decided stand, in view of the reports made by Col. John S. Mosby, now an agent of the Interior Department. The President's order to all squatters to vacate within a year has not been obeyed, and drastic measures to enforce the law are contemplated here, it is understood, by high Government officials.

## Government Lands.

"We do not hear much about any such occupation of Government lands illegally," said the Senator on leaving the White House offices. "All we have heard is in the reports of Colonel Mosby."

Attention was called to Edward Rosewater's recent allegations of raceability in office made against certain Federal place holders in Nebraska. The Western editor did not present any specific charges of malfeasance in office, but did charge that high officials were so controlled by bad political influences as to impair their usefulness to the General Government and to the State.

"One of the officials Mr. Rosewater is fighting, according to reports," said the Senator, "is United States District Attorney Summers. His term expires December 29. He is a capable official, and I hope to see him reappointed."

## Many Pay Respects.

Senators and Representatives returning for the session came in pairs to pay their respects. Callers having political matters to present had little opportunity to say much to the President along those lines.

One of the Senatorial callers was Mr. Beveridge, of Indiana, who has just returned from his trip to New Mexico, with the subcommittee of the Senate Committee on Territories, to investigate conditions there with a view to granting Statehood.

Senator Quay followed closely and was accompanied by his secretary, W. R. Wright.

Senators Burrows of Michigan, Nelson of Minnesota, and Gamble of South Dakota also called.

While members of the upper house of Congress were paying their respects, the Capitol were also being greeted by the President. In this number were Representative Calhoun A. Grow of Pennsylvania, the venerable statesman who was Speaker of the House in the civil war days, Representatives Sherman, Latta, Pugsley, and Vreeland of New York, Burkett of Nebraska, Jones of Washington, Schirm of Maryland, Burke and Martin of South Dakota, Cromer and Overstreet of Indiana, William Alden Smith of Michigan, Curtis of Kansas, Shibley of Pennsylvania, and Delegate Flynn of Oklahoma.

## DIRIGIBLE BALLOON TO BE BUILT FOR FRANCE

Plans Approved by Minister of War and Airship to Be Ready by Spring.

PARIS, Dec. 1.—The "Autovelo" says, Colonel and Major Renard are about to build a dirigible balloon for the government.

The plans have been approved by General Andre, the minister of war, and the airship will be ready by next spring. The outer casing will be of cotton enclosing an inner one of India rubber.

## KAISER'S INHERITANCE FROM GERMAN SUBJECT

FRANKFORT, Dec. 1.—The "Frankfort Gazette" says Wilhelm Hildebrand, of Goerlitz, who died recently, left real estate of the value of 275,000 and 150,000 in cash to Emperor William.

## CONGRESS REASSEMBLES FOR THE SHORT SESSION

The Senate—Republicans, 55; Democrats, 33.  
The House—Republicans, 201; Democrats, 155.

The Fifty-seventh Congress resumed at noon today the labors interrupted by its adjournment last July. Both houses met in an amiable cheerful and contented mood. For though in each branch some members had fallen in the struggle for survival, no serious breaks in party lines or party policies had followed the November election. The Republican majority took ample satisfaction in the assurance that its power would continue unbroken for another two years, while the Democratic minority was frankly disposed to congratulate itself that in the November contest it had fully held its own.

Putting behind them the partisan clamors and bitternesses of the struggle just ended, both sides met and greeted each other in a spirit of good-humored friendliness, which argues unmistakably for a busy and fruitful shorter session. On the tasks left unfinished last July Congress now enters with renewed interest and vigor, and with a mind untroubled by the bushwhacking strategy and distorting motives of partisan politics. The work it has to do will therefore be done, it now seems probable, with expedition, with harmony, and with success.

In the Senate, where violent alterations in personnel or policy are happily infrequent, one loss of the recess was peculiarly emphasized on reassembling. The death of James McMillan of Michigan has robbed that body of one of its most valued and useful members, as it has stripped the District of Columbia of the services of a devoted and far-sighted friend.

In the House the recess wrought a change even more startling. The present Speaker's determination to refuse a re-election had precipitated an unexpected, but quickly ended, contest for the gavel, and from among the ranks of the majority a Speaker-to-be had stepped forward with surprising suddenness. The hold-over presiding officer and the future "master" of the House faced each other today for the first time in their new roles. There were the star parts in the first day's session of the reassembled Congress.

## SENATE IN SESSION FOURTEEN MINUTES

Adjourns in Respect to Late Senator McMillan.

## PRESIDENT FRYE IN CHAIR

Gavel Falls Promptly at Noon—Prayer by the Rev. F. J. Prettyman—Mr. Hale Makes First Motion.

The Senate convened formally today, but adjourned almost immediately out of respect to the memory of Senator McMillan, chairman of the Senate District Committee, who had been one of its most esteemed members.

The President's message was not received and Mr. Aldrich, who is to succeed Mr. McMillan, did not present his credentials.

The note of the short session was struck when Mr. Burrows, in a trembling voice, excited the fact of Mr. McMillan's short last illness and offered a resolution that the Senate adjourn.

The proceedings of the session, except for this, were perfunctory and colorless. Mr. Frye let his gavel fall exactly at noon.

Chaplain Milburn Absent.

Chaplain Milburn has finished his work in the Senate. His resignation, tendered on account of his poor health, is now in the hands of Mr. Frye.

The opening prayer was read by his friend, the Rev. Forrest J. Prettyman. It was a few short words asking the favor of Providence on the deliberations of the Senate in the coming session.

"The Senate will please be in order," President Pro Tem. Frye recited, as the prayer ended.

Senator Hale of Maine made the first motion of the new session, offering the usual resolution that the House be notified that the Senate was ready for business.

Committee to Notify President.

Senator Platt then offered the usual second resolution that a committee be appointed to visit the President with a committee from the House, and inform him that Congress is ready to receive any communication.

Senator Cullom offered the resolution that the hour of meeting be at 12 o'clock, daily.

Mr. Burrows then announced the death of his colleague and offered a resolution of regret, which included adjournment.

Mr. Frye then, at 12:14, announced that the Senate stood adjourned until noon tomorrow.

The galleries of the Senate began to fill up two hours before the gavel fell this morning, and by 11 o'clock a large audience was present watching the arrival of the floral tributes and waiting for the first appearance of a Senator.

Mr. Frye made a hurried dash across the floor half an hour before noon and gave the galleries a moment of diversion, but he soon disappeared. The Senators generally did not begin to come into the chamber until a moment or two before the opening.

The flowers were an event of importance to the galleries, however, and happily they were profuse and handsome, and so well distributed that no one could have been disappointed at not seeing at least one offering for at least one Senator from his State.

Ship of State.

Senator Platt of New York received the one piece that attracted all eyes, the shining center of the collection. It was a great ship of state, four feet long, of immortelles and chrysanthemums, and with white silken sails. Senator Platt also received an immense basket of roses and chrysanthemums and another smaller basket, so that his desk and chair were completely hidden.

Senator Proctor was second Republican favorite with the flower givers. He received a basket of immense chrysanthemums, and two or three lesser tributes.

## Uncle Sam's Annual Bul, Due Dec. 30, 1904

To properly run the United States Government for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1904, it is estimated by the various departments that \$589,189,112.30 will be required. This is \$32,660,014.38 less than the actual appropriation made by Congress for the current year. The principal reductions are in the estimates for the military establishments and public works.

The total asked for is to be divided among the various departments as follows:

Legislative establishments, \$3,267,845.50; executive establishments, \$26,061,653; judicial establishments, \$756,270; foreign intercourse, \$2,145,415.69; military establishments, \$77,986,515.29; naval establishments, \$74,844,540.58; Indian affairs, \$7,683,780.57; pensions, \$139,846,480; public works, \$61,277,832.30; postal service, \$8,242,866; miscellaneous, \$32,444,073.47; permanent annual appropriation, \$132,589,820; grand total, \$589,189,112.30.

## THE REV. W. H. MILBURN RESIGNS AS CHAPLAIN

Pathetic Letter of Regret Sent to the Senate.

The Chaplain of the Senate, the Rev. W. H. Milburn, has finished his work in that position.

He has addressed a letter of resignation to Senator Frye, President pro tem. of the Senate, which will be read tomorrow. He alludes to ill-health, and in a pathetically regretful sentence speaks of the hope that he had cherished to conduct the religious exercises of the Senate until the end of his life.

Mr. Milburn's successor will be appointed in a few days, it is understood. Until the appointment is made the Rev. Forrest J. Prettyman will deliver the daily morning prayer.

Mr. Milburn's letter of resignation is as follows:

"The infirm state of my health has made it necessary for me to tender my resignation as Chaplain of the Senate."

"It is with deep sorrow that I have come to this decision, as it was my cherished wish that, under the favor of the Senate, I should conduct its religious services during the remainder of my days."

"I have arranged with a friend of mine to conduct the exercises until the appointment of my successor."

"I wish to tender my thanks to the Senate, and to no one more than you."

## EXPENSE MONEY FOR STRIKE COMMISSION

Representative Cannon Asks That Congress Appropriate the Sum of \$50,000.

Representative Cannon, the chairman of the Appropriations Committee, introduced in the House today a bill appropriating the sum of \$50,000 to pay the expenses of the anthracite strike commission appointed by the President. It contains a provision appropriating that section of the Revised Statutes which prohibits the payment of two salaries from the Government to one person.

The measure will be taken up in the committee tomorrow and reported to the House at once.

The legislative, executive, and judicial appropriation will be the first of the general appropriation bills proposed by the committee, and work will be begun on that at once.

## GOOD FEELING MARKS OPENING OF THE HOUSE

Representatives Remembered by Their Friends.

## FLORAL GIFTS PLENTIFUL

Number of New Members Present Credentials and Are Promptly Sworn Into Office.

Promptly at 12 o'clock Speaker Henderson's gavel fell and the House of Representatives of the Fifty-seventh Congress was called to order in second session. There were present about 425 members. An hour or more before noon the floor of the House was thronged with members and their friends. Congratulations were the order of the day, and the business of the session was but little discussed. Now and then some one who will not be a member of the next House joined a merry group and condolences were offered.

The galleries were filled and the corridors were crowded with visitors, many of whom were women.

Many Are Remembered.

Representative Olmsted received a huge bunch of violets. Among the others who were favored with floral offerings were Representatives Mann, Hemenway, Tawney, Fletcher, Pearre, Davenport, Graff, Babcock, and several others.

Good feeling everywhere prevailed. The Speaker's room was besieged with members anxious to obtain consent for the early consideration of favorite measures.

Pages and messengers were kept busy all the morning bringing floral tributes and placing them upon the desks of popular members. The largest contributions were for the lowest desks. On Representative Mercer's desk were large clusters of carnations, roses, and chrysanthemums. Representative Joy of Missouri sat behind a mammoth rose bush. Representative Connell, who was defeated after a faction of the Democratic party had endorsed him, was the recipient of several floral pieces. Representative Bingham, the father of the House, was remembered, as was "Uncle Joe" Cannon, the next Speaker.

When the gavel fell, the confusion subsided for a moment, and then the House burst forth in applause, in which the galleries joined. Again a hush fell over the assemblage, and soon the voice of the chaplain was heard in prayer. When he had concluded the clerk began calling the roll of the House by States. This required a half hour's time.

Credentials of Representative Brandegee, who succeeds the late Representative Russell of Connecticut; Representative Butler, who fills a vacancy made by reason of the fact that his seat was declared vacant at the last session; Representative Billemyer, who succeeds the late Representative Polk of Pennsylvania; and Representative Glass, who succeeds the late Representative Otley of Virginia, were sworn in.

The resignations of Representative Ray of New York and Representative Hall of Pennsylvania were read. Chairman Payne was then recognized and stated that John W. Dwight had been elected to succeed Representative Ray, official canvass of the vote had not been forwarded by reason of the fact that the official canvass of the vote had not been made. Representative Lanham made a similar statement in regard to Representative-elect Shumpperd and Representative-elect Russell of Texas. No objection having been made the oath was administered to Representative Dwight and Representative Shepperd.

The latter is the son of the late Representative Shepperd, and is the most youthful appearing member of the House. He is but twenty-seven years of age and looks younger than either Representative Feely or Representative Lever. Representative-elect Russell, who succeeds the late Representative De Graffenried was not present.